

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 500
Los Angeles, CA 90013



May 6, 2015

File Number: XREQ 2015040010
Whisman Station Drive Whisman Station Dr
City of Mountain View, Santa Clara County

Carolyn Gonot
Director of Engineering & Infrastructure Development
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
3331 North First Street, Building 2
San Jose, CA 95134- 1927

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Whisman Station Drive At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 082B-12.90 and DOT No. 926828M in the City of Mountain View, County of Santa Clara.

Dear Ms. Gonot:

This refers to your letter dated April 13, 2015, received by us on April 16, 2015, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Whisman Station Drive at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) track in the City of Mountain View (City), County of Santa Clara (County). The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 082B-12.90 and DOT No. 926828M.

Whisman Station Drive is a two lane roadway. The crossing consists of two tracks running north-south with two curb-mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal with automatic gate) warning devices. One hundred and twelve light rail trains travel through the crossing per day at a maximum speed of 15 mph. The average daily traffic on Whisman Station Drive is 3,100 vehicles.

This project is part of VTA's plan to increase efficiency and capacity of their light rail system.

The proposed alterations as indicated in the request letter and/or shown in the attachments shall consist of:

- Realigning the eastern track;
- Installing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant detectable warning tactile strips, at a minimum of 10 feet from centerline of track on all four sidewalk approaches;
- Installing R28D (CA) "NO PARKING VEHICLES OVER 6' HIGH" signs in the northeast quadrant; and

- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 advance warning signs and “RXX” and railroad limit pavement markings as shown on plans.

Commission’s Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff has investigated VTA’s request, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and VTA are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, you may proceed with the improvements as described in your request letter, attachments, and summarized above.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with Section 8A.08, Temporary Traffic Control Zones, of the CA MUTCD, 2014 Edition, published by the California Department of Transportation.

All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission GOs, ADA and CA MUTCD.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code 21084].

This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by involved parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, the RCEB may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

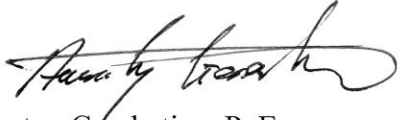
Within 30 days after completion of this project, VTA shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the Commission web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/safety/Rail/Crossings/formg.htm>. This report may be submitted electronically to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

At the conclusion of the project, VTA should electronically submit an updated Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the FRA, reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a minimum of once every three years. Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rceb@cpuc.ca.gov.

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If you have any questions, please contact Felix Ko at (415) 703-3722 or felix.ko@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anton Garabetian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Anton Garabetian, P. E.
Program and Project Supervisor
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch
Safety and Enforcement Division

C: Ven Prasad, VTA
Jacqueline Solomon, City

